

Los Angeles

The following is a profile of Los Angeles, California and will include information on Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles, which is the largest city within the county.

Demographics¹

- Population: Los Angeles County: 9,603,300
City of Los Angeles: 3, 722,500
- Ethnic Makeup (county): Hispanic 41%, White 36.9%, Asian 11.5%, Black 10.3%, American Indian .3%

Political Figures

- County²
Executive Officer: Joanne Sturges
Supervisors: Gloria Molina (1st District), Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (2nd District), Zev Yaroslavsky (3rd District), Don Knabe (4th District), Michael D. Antonovich (5th District)
Sheriff: Lee Baca
- City³
Mayor: Richard J. Riordin
City Council (District): Mike Hernandez (1), Joel Wachs (2), Laura Chick (3), John Ferraro (4), Michael Feuer (5), Ruth Galanter (6), Mark Ridley-Thomas (8), Rita Walters (9), Nate Holden (10), Cindy Miscikowski (11), Hal Bernson (12), Jackie Goldberg (13), Richard Alatorre (14), Rudy Svorinich Jr. (15).

Funding and Programs

- There are 88 cities within the County, each with its own city council. All of the cities, in varying degrees, contract with the County to provide municipal services. Approximately 40 contract for nearly all of their municipal services. More than 65% of the County is unincorporated. For the 1 million people living in those areas, the Board of Supervisors is their "city council" and County departments provide the municipal services. The 1997-98 County budget is \$12.6 billion. Thirty-seven percent of the revenue comes from the state, 27% from the federal government, 14% from property taxes, and 22% from other sources. The largest percentage -32% - of the budget goes to pay for social services, while 20% is spent on public protection and 19% on health services. The County, with 84,000 employees, is the largest employer in the five-county region. More than 27,000 of its positions are in law and justice; 22,000 are in health services; and 17,500 are in social services.⁴
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy awarded two community coalitions \$154,459 under the FY 1998 Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The coalitions are:
Delinquency Prevention Consortium of Los Angeles County (\$100,000)
Project HEAVY West Los Angeles (\$54,459)⁵

- In 1990 the Office of National Drug Control Policy designated a HIDTA within Los Angeles. The Los Angeles HIDTA includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The HIDTA also involves 8 Federal Agencies, 4 State Agencies, and over 40 local police and sheriffs departments.⁶

Crime⁷

- The City of Los Angeles Police Department employed 9,510 officers and 2,927 civilians in 1997. Los Angeles County employed 4,390 officers and 2,586 civilians in 1997.

Number of Offenses Known in Los Angeles County 1995-1997

Offense	1995	1996	1997
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	227	165	146
Forcible rape	286	279	235
Robbery	3,657	3,222	2,721
Aggravated assault	9,970	9,106	8,325
Burglary	7,694	7,207	6,273
Larceny-theft	11,099	10,582	9,225
Motor vehicle theft	7,013	6,496	5,617
Arson	447	482	419

Number of Offenses Known in the City of Los Angeles 1995-1997

Offense	1995	1996	1997
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	849	709	567
Forcible rape	1,590	1,463	1,413
Robbery	29,134	25,189	20,506
Aggravated assault	38,945	35,477	34,043
Burglary	41,325	35,865	30,195
Larceny-theft	108,149	95,069	82,605
Motor vehicle theft	46,212	41,486	35,218
Arson	3,379	3,593	3,320

Heroin

Heroin use in Los Angeles is stabilizing. Treatment admissions decreased from 6,332 in the third quarter of 1996 to 5,691 during the second quarter of 1997. Of the heroin-related treatment admissions in 1997 most were males (55%), Hispanic (41%) or white (40%), and 13% were black. Most of those admitted were age 35-44 (43%), 25% were 25-34 and 26% were 45-54. The primary method of use was injection (89%).⁸

Of the arrestees tested for drug use in Los Angeles 5.5% of males and 11.3% of females tested positive for opiates. Of juvenile males tested .6% were positive for opiates.⁹

During 1996 there were 550 heroin-related deaths in Los Angeles this was up from 508 in 1995.¹⁰ There were also 3,305 heroin mentions in Los Angeles emergency departments this is up from 3,088 in 1995.¹¹

Heroin in Los Angeles is mostly sold by Latino males and is priced at \$3-\$5 per bag of low purity.¹²

Cocaine

Cocaine use in Los Angeles is down. The users are mostly adult, African American males, and the primary method of use is smoking.

In Los Angeles the 1,675 treatment admissions in the second quarter of 1997 were mostly male (53%), 43% were age 25-34, and 39% were 35-44.¹³

The amount of cocaine related deaths were down slightly in Los Angeles from 545 in 1995 to 541 in 1996.¹⁴ There were 5,710 cocaine-related emergency department mentions during 1996 in Los Angeles, this is up from 4,985 in 1995.¹⁵

In Los Angeles, during 1997, 37.6% of males and 48.7% of female arrestees tested positive for cocaine. During 1997 12.2% of juvenile male arrestees tested positive for cocaine in Los Angeles.¹⁶

During 1997 12.3% of high school students in Los Angeles had used cocaine at least once in their life, and 3.9% were current cocaine users. Also, during 1997 8.1% of Los Angeles's high school students had used crack or freebase in their lifetime. In Los Angeles 1.5% of high school students had tried cocaine before they were 13.¹⁷

Young African American males are the primary sellers of cocaine; a rock of cocaine goes for \$10.¹⁸

Marijuana

Marijuana use is up in Los Angeles especially among younger users. The majority of marijuana users in Los Angeles are male, African American and Latino.

Marijuana treatment admissions in Los Angeles totaled 511 in during the second quarter of 1997. Of those admitted 61% were male, 30% white, 25% African American, and 46% were under the age of 18.¹⁹

During 1996 there were 2,132 marijuana-related emergency department mentions this was up from 1,706 in 1995²⁰. Marijuana-related deaths in Los Angeles increased from 3 in 1995 to 8 in 1996²¹.

In Los Angeles 26.5% of male and 17.9% of female arrestees tested positive for marijuana during 1997. Also during 1997 55.1% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for marijuana²².

In Los Angeles 45.7% of high school students had tried marijuana at least once in their life and 25.4% were current marijuana users. In Los Angeles 11.9% of high school students had tried marijuana before they were 13²³.

Sellers in Los Angeles are mostly Latinos, and African Americans and they generally don't sell other drugs. Marijuana in Los Angeles costs \$5 for a bag of good purity²⁴.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use in Los Angeles is up. Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased in Los Angeles to account for 7% of all admissions in the second quarter of 1997. Those admitted were mostly male (58%), white (67%) or Hispanic (23%), and most were age 25-34 (39%). The method of use for those admitted in Los Angeles were inhalers (39%), smokers (40%), and injectors (15%)²⁵.

There were 141 methamphetamine-related deaths in Los Angeles in 1995 this rose to 145 in 1996²⁶. In Los Angeles there were 1,276 methamphetamine-related emergency department mentions in 1995 and 1,268 in 1996²⁷.

In Los Angeles, during 1997, 4.7% of male and 8.9% of female arrestees tested positive for methamphetamine. Also, 6.5% of juveniles in Los Angeles tested positive for methamphetamine²⁸.

Drug Trafficking Trends²⁹

- Los Angeles is vulnerable to marine and ground drug trafficking. In addition Los Angeles County experiences a high volume of tourist and business travel which makes it difficult for law enforcement officers to detect drugs being smuggled in through the International and regional airports.
- There are major gangs in operation within Los Angeles County that have links to the narcotics trade. The Hispanic gangs in the area mainly involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine and marijuana, and the black gangs are involved with crack.
- During a twelve-month period from June 1, 1998 to May 31, 1997, the law enforcement initiatives of the Los Angeles HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 122 of the 137 targeted drug trafficking organizations. This has resulted in the total seizure of some 27.7 tons of assorted dangerous drugs. Over \$18.9 million was seized during that period and 639 individuals were arrested/indicted for various narcotic trafficking and money laundering offenses.

During this year, the five Los Angeles HIDTA Task Forces "handed-off" 53 significant major narcotics trafficking investigation elements to other law enforcement organizations in the region and 59 outside of the area. This activity resulted in the seizure of more than 5,600 kilos (6.3 Tons) of cocaine, 342 pounds of marijuana, 101 pounds of methamphetamine, the arrest of 110 suspects, and the seizure of over \$7.7 million by the agencies receiving the "hand off."

- Over the past three years, the Los Angeles HIDTA enforcement initiatives have seized more than 100 tons of dangerous drugs, arrested 2,294 drug trafficking offenders, and seized over \$75.8 million in currency. Additionally, they have positively impacted 262 major drug organizations by dismantling 174 and severely disrupting 88.

This profile was compiled by ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Last Updated: 3/11/99

Sources

- ¹ State of California, Los Angeles County Web Site at <http://www.co.la.ca.us/>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ State of California, City of Los Angeles Web Site at <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/>
- ⁴ State of California, Los Angeles County Web Site at <http://www.co.la.ca.us/>
- ⁵ Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Roster of FY 1998 Drug-Free Community Support Program Grantees* at <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/chart2.html>
- ⁶ Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Los Angeles HIDTA- Fact Sheet*, at <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/la-fs.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1995-1997*, October 1996, September 1997, November 1998.
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- ¹⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Drug Abuse Warning Network: Annual Medical Examiner Data, 1996*, July 1998.
- ¹¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Mid-Year 1997 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, September 1998.
- ¹² Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check*, Summer 1998.
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This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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